

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 /067 W

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R 231357Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4789

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCEUR

DIA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,NATO,UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER SOVIET MEDIA CRITICISM OF NATO MANEUVERS

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 11845 (B) MOSCOW 13506 AND PREVIOUS

1. IZVESTIYA POLITICAL COMMENTATOR YU. GOLOSHUBOV ON

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SEPTEMBER 22 CONTINUES SOVIET MEDIA CRITICISM OF NATO

MILITARY MANEUVERS IN WESTERN EUROPE. GOLOSHUBOV

REPEATS THE STANDARD ARGUMENTS AGAINST BARFROST-75, DEEP EXPRESS-75, AND GROSSE ROCHADE ALREADY REPORTED REF B. HE GOES FURTHER THAN MOST COMMENTATORS HAVE DONE, HOWEVER, IN MAKING EXPLICIT HIS CONTENTION THAT PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SUCH MANEUVERS UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT DOES NOTHING TO ALTER FACT THAT SUCH MANEUVERS CONTINUE TO BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

2. GOLOSHUBOV SAYS THAT "TRUE, THERE ARE SUCH DEFENDERS OF MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN THE WEST WHO ATTEMPT TO PROVE THE 'COMPLETE COMPATIBILITY' (OF THESE MANEUVERS) WITH THE DECISIONS TAKEN IN HELSINKI. IN SO DOING THEY ALLEGE THAT NOTIFICATION OF THE EXERCISES WAS MADE IN ADVANCE, AND THAT THAT CORRESPONDS TO A CERTAIN PROVISION OF THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE. BUT THIS IGNORES A MAIN POINT --- THAT IS, THE GENERAL SPIRIT OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT MEETING, WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FIRST OF ALL AS AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT ON THE PATH TO STRENGTHENING DETENTE, AS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW STAGE IN THE PEACEFUL LIFE OF THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE. ...ONE MUST ADMIT THAT THE PRESENT MILITARY DEMONSTRATION BY NATO IN MANY AREAS OF WESTERN EUROPE DO NOT ANSWER THE INTERESTS OF STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE CONTINENT."

3. COMMENT: THIS CURRENT CAMPAIGN APPARENTLY AIMED AT DOWNPLAYING MANEUVER NOTIFICATIONS CONTRASTS WITH SOME EARLIER AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY (A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT) (REF A) WHICH SEEMED TO EMBRACE THE CONCEPT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. THE CONTRAST MAY REFLECT GENERAL SOVIET DEFENSIVENESS OVER WESTERN SEIZURE OF THE INITIATIVE ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION RE CBM'S AS WELL AS BASKET III ISSUES. IT MAY ALSO REFLECT A DESIRE -- IN CONSERVATIVE MILITARY AND POLITICAL CIRCLES -- TO AVOID THE RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH WOULD BE IMPLICIT IN A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO UNEXPECTEDLY DETAILED VOLUNTARY WESTERN CBM NOTIFICATION. WE LEAN TOWARD THE LATTER  
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INTERPRETATION, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH FOR INDICATIONS OF OTHER MOTIVES. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING REPORTS ON SOVIET AND WP MANEUVERS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MOSCOW13586  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MOSCOW 11845, 75 MOSCOW 13506  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER SOVIET MEDIA CRITICISM OF NATO MANEUVERS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, NATO, (GOLOSHUBOV, YU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006